



RIGID TEST OF HOSE SEQUEL OF BURSTING OF LINES AT BLAZE

Board of Underwriters to Press for Examination of Equipment in Use in City's Fire Department.

Tests of the durability of every piece of hose belonging to the Fire Department of Philadelphia will be made as a result of the fire which destroyed the wall paper store of Charles M. N. Killen, 123-33 Filbert street, last night, and swept on beyond control of the firemen to the annex of the Hotel Windsor and threatened the entire block with destruction, largely because of the bursting of rotten hose under the pressure of normal service.

This statement was made at noon today by Charles A. Hexamer, secretary of the Philadelphia Board of Fire Underwriters, after he had visited the scene of the fire.

Action will also be taken by the National Board of Underwriters, which will conduct a rigid investigation into the cause of the rapid spread of the fire against the efforts of nearly half the city's fire fighting force.

"I understand the high pressure hose held up well and did most efficient work," said Mr. Hexamer; "but as regards the other hose, all I can say is that a thorough investigation will be made and a test of every piece of fire hose in Philadelphia. It will be tested under high and normal pressure, and any hose that breaks or shows signs of weakness will be discarded. Action will be taken by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, but just what they will do cannot be told at this time.

"Heretofore it has been the custom to test hose lines at fires. This has proved to be a risky custom. There will be no more of that. We shall take no chance, and in the near future a test will be held.

The bursting of rotten hose is held partly responsible for the spread of last night's fire. Hardly had the second stream of water been directed upon the blazing Killen Building when it burst, and again the same thing happened and the only good that it did was to keep the crowds at a distance, which was more than the police could do.

Many of the lines burst in the first half hour of the fire, at a time when every pound of pressure was necessary. Great clouds of flame shot from windows and the roof, threatening surrounding buildings with destruction. Just as a stream of water would begin to accomplish something there would be a snap, and another hose went out of commission, while the fire raged on. By the time another line was in range the flames had doubled.

On Cathart street, where several companies of firemen were fighting the flames from the rear, two rotten hose lines, side by side, burst almost at the same moment.

None of the high-pressure lines burst, but the breaking of so many smaller, yet effective lines gave the fire the start that nearly brought it under control in the block. It was said that at least seven or eight lines burst. Others leaked so badly that it was necessary to place large garbage cans over the leak to keep them from spreading.

Concluded on Page Three

THE WEATHER



Well, old Jupiter Pluvius and Boreas and the rest of the celestial company are showing enough grace, it would seem, to give up their seats to that attractive at this time of the year—lady, Miss Fair-weather. Maybe it's the influences of the Xmas spirit. At any rate, the fact remains. And, by-the-by, why worry over the White Christmas prospect? Whether it rains or whether it snows or whether it's just plain green, it matters little in this climatic corner.

Whether or not it's weather. FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair tonight and Thursday; not much change in temperature; moderate west winds. For details, see page 2.

Observations at Philadelphia 8 A. M.

Table with weather observations: Barometer 30.00, Temperature 43.00, Wind 10.00, etc.

Almanac of the Day

Table with almanac data: Sun sets 4:53 p. m., Full moon tomorrow, etc.

Lamps to Be Lighted

Table with lamp lighting schedule: High water, Low water, etc.

The Tides

Table with tide information: High water, Low water, etc.

Skating Today

There is skating today on Con- tance and Gustine lakes in Fair- mount Park and on Hunting Park Lake.

FIRE IN TEXTILE DISTRICT

Cotton Mills of Clegg & Co. Badly Damaged.

A stubborn fire late this afternoon in the heart of the Kensington textile district enveloped that section in a blanket of dense smoke and for a while threatened several buildings.

The blaze was centered in the waist and cotton mills of Alfred Clegg & Co., at 245 North Market street, which is a two-story brick structure.

Employees in the mill, including seven girls were working on the first floor, when the fire was discovered. Several girls fainted.

A local alarm was sent in. When the firemen arrived smoke and flames were issuing from the windows of the building. The fire did about \$200 damage.

BLOCKLEY PRAISED BY GRAND JURORS AFTER INSPECTION

"No Tinge of Criticism," Says Report—Detention House and Moyamensing Lauded.

For the first time in many years a Philadelphia grand jury today praised the Philadelphia Hospital, commonly known as Blockley, winding up a remarkable report with the statement that "Our suggestions bear not the slightest tinge of criticism." Daniel W. Seltzer, superintendent of the hospital, is highly praised for the condition in which the grand jurors found the institution.

The report was confirmed today by Miss Dahlgren's mother, who is staying at the home of Mrs. Wharton Drexel, at Cornwells. Miss Dahlgren's sisters, Madeline, Catharine, Ursula, Olga and Eva, also are staying at Cornwells.

Miss Dahlgren is a granddaughter of the late Rear Admiral Dahlgren, who made a fortune out of his invention of the Dahlgren gun, used in the Civil War. She is a niece of Mrs. Harry Lehr, of Baltimore and Newport, and of Mrs. Charles E. Furness, of 1230 Spruce street, this city. Her maternal grandfather was the late Joseph Drexel, who was the brother of Francis Drexel and Anthony J. Drexel.

Miss Dahlgren is the oldest of the Dahlgren sisters. She was educated abroad and in a Sacred Heart convent at home, and always has been seriously inclined.

Mrs. Dahlgren sued her husband for divorce in March, 1912, charging improper conduct, but not naming a co-defendant. She won the suit. Mr. Dahlgren is a graduate of Harvard University and a member of the New York Yacht, University, Riding and Loyal Legion Clubs, and of the Metropolitan Club of Washington. Mrs. Dahlgren inherited large fortunes from her father and mother.

The Dahlgrens were married by the late Archbishop Corrigan, and the wedding was attended by society people of New York and this city. Formerly they had a country seat at Lawrence, L. I.

The convent at Cornwells is operated by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Negroes. Mother Drexel took the veil in 1888. She has contributed more than a million dollars to her life work. The sisterhood operates several schools in the West. Many of the teachers are former Philadelphia girls.

According to her friends, Miss Dahlgren formerly had planned to become a Carmelite nun. She studied for some time, but when she sought to enter learned that she was not considered strong enough for the rigorous life of that order. She has since decided to become a nun. They are said to have known for years that she had such intention.

Referring to the House of Detention, the report says: "Superintendent Richardson conducted us, and the jury were most interested in the system and in the youngsters on probation. Ventilation is noticeably bad, as the building has been cut up into small rooms. More space is necessary. The movement is growing rapidly. It is proposed to erect a larger building, in connection with the Grand Jury Court, 29th and Race streets, on the plot suggested for the Municipal Court and other buildings.

OPEN COUNTRY FOR JUVENILES. "We see no reason why the Juvenile Court cannot be held in the City Hall, absolutely separate from the House of Detention. We see no reason why the House of Detention should be kept in the heart of the city. We see all reason why it should be erected on the outskirts of the city, where the youngsters can have outdoor recreation in woods and in fields, rather than on a house roof. Many of these youngsters, raised in the slums and in the tenements, are ignorant of the entire management of the institution within the walls."

900 MARINES ARRIVE Overjoyed to Be Home From Vera Cruz and Hayti.

The 900 marines who arrived at League Island late this afternoon on board the United States transport Hancock were overjoyed by the thought of spending Christmas at home. The men, who disembarked immediately, will be given a 30-day furlough.

PITTSBURGH PAYS WORKERS 2000 Lately Idle Receive Wages in Time for Christmas.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 22.—Two thousand persons to whom employment had been given as a result of the municipality's plan of furnishing work to men thrown out of work by recent industrial suspension, today received about \$15 each for their first week's work.

Each applicant under this plan is examined as to the number of persons dependent upon him and it was found that the average was five dependents to each applicant. The effect is most beneficial and will lighten the gloom of a jobless Christmas in many homes.

LONDON CHANGE OPENS JAN. 4 Treasury Department Made Announcement to This Effect.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The London Stock Exchange will reopen on January 4. This statement was made today by the Treasury.

RED CROSS OFF FOR TURKEY AMSTERDAM, Dec. 22.—A dispatch from Berlin states that a German Red Cross expedition, comprising five surgeons and 17 nurses, with a large quantity of medical supplies, has left Amsterdam for Constantinople.

LUCY DAHLGREN, SOCIAL FAVORITE, TO BECOME A NUN

Granddaughter of Rear Admiral and Member of Drexel Family Will Enter Convent at Cornwells.

The whirl and gaiety of social life are about to be cast aside by Miss Lucy Dahlgren, 21 years old, social favorite of this city and New York, for the hard work and discipline of the Blessed Sacrament Sisterhood, an order whose members devote their lives to work among the Negroes and Indians. Miss Dahlgren made her debut in New York in 1912.

The young woman is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Dahlgren, of New York, who were divorced nearly two years ago. At present she is studying in the convent of St. Leo's Church, in East 29th street, New York, according to one of her sisters, and she will enter the convent at Cornwells, Pa., by Mother Katharine Drexel, January 23.

News that the young social favorite was planning to follow in the footsteps of other Philadelphia girls and devote her life to religious work came as a surprise to society in this city outside her own circle of most intimate friends.

The report was confirmed today by Miss Dahlgren's mother, who is staying at the home of Mrs. Wharton Drexel, at Cornwells. Miss Dahlgren's sisters, Madeline, Catharine, Ursula, Olga and Eva, also are staying at Cornwells.

Miss Dahlgren is a granddaughter of the late Rear Admiral Dahlgren, who made a fortune out of his invention of the Dahlgren gun, used in the Civil War. She is a niece of Mrs. Harry Lehr, of Baltimore and Newport, and of Mrs. Charles E. Furness, of 1230 Spruce street, this city. Her maternal grandfather was the late Joseph Drexel, who was the brother of Francis Drexel and Anthony J. Drexel.

Miss Dahlgren is the oldest of the Dahlgren sisters. She was educated abroad and in a Sacred Heart convent at home, and always has been seriously inclined.

Mrs. Dahlgren sued her husband for divorce in March, 1912, charging improper conduct, but not naming a co-defendant. She won the suit. Mr. Dahlgren is a graduate of Harvard University and a member of the New York Yacht, University, Riding and Loyal Legion Clubs, and of the Metropolitan Club of Washington. Mrs. Dahlgren inherited large fortunes from her father and mother.

The Dahlgrens were married by the late Archbishop Corrigan, and the wedding was attended by society people of New York and this city. Formerly they had a country seat at Lawrence, L. I.

The convent at Cornwells is operated by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Negroes. Mother Drexel took the veil in 1888. She has contributed more than a million dollars to her life work. The sisterhood operates several schools in the West. Many of the teachers are former Philadelphia girls.

According to her friends, Miss Dahlgren formerly had planned to become a Carmelite nun. She studied for some time, but when she sought to enter learned that she was not considered strong enough for the rigorous life of that order. She has since decided to become a nun. They are said to have known for years that she had such intention.

Referring to the House of Detention, the report says: "Superintendent Richardson conducted us, and the jury were most interested in the system and in the youngsters on probation. Ventilation is noticeably bad, as the building has been cut up into small rooms. More space is necessary. The movement is growing rapidly. It is proposed to erect a larger building, in connection with the Grand Jury Court, 29th and Race streets, on the plot suggested for the Municipal Court and other buildings.

HINT OF WHITE CHRISTMAS

Germantown Gets it in a Slight Flurry in Noon Hour.

A light snow storm first noticed in Germantown and other northern sections of the city early this afternoon gave promise to Philadelphia of a white Christmas. The snow began to fall before 1 o'clock, and a half hour later was coming down steadily. Earlier a few scattered flurries were noticed in the center and other sections of the city, but they did not continue.

Snow is the one thing needed to make Christmas as picturesque outdoors as it is in the home. Should the fall make possible sleighing and coasting the merry jingle of sleigh bells and the shouts of children trying out their new sleds will add considerably to the celebration of the day.

GREETINGS FROM BRUMBAUGH Governor-elect Sends Christmas Wishes to 7000 Assistants.

"May the spirit of the Christmas tide possess you and abide with you always," said Gov. G. BRUMBAUGH. This inscription was engraved on more than 7000 Christmas cards which were sent to every school principal and teacher in Philadelphia and to many personal friends by Governor-elect Brumbaugh from his office in the Stock Exchange Building today.

FLOOD'S HAVOC AT BAGDAD 12,000 Persons Homeless and Appeal Made for American Aid.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Twelve thousand residents of Bagdad are homeless and without food as the result of the havoc wrought by the overflow of the River Tigris, Ambassador Morgenthau, at Constantinople, cabled the State Department today.

Mr. Morgenthau said that the authorities of Bagdad have appealed to him for assistance.

TRIED TO KISS STENOGRAPHER Man Accused by Woman Held Under Bail.

Amos Holt, 104 1/2 Bush street, was held in \$500 bail to keep the peace on a charge of assault made by Miss Margaret Woodington, of 132 North 61st street, stenographer in his employ, by Magistrate Renshaw today. Miss Woodington alleged that Holt tried to kiss her while she was working overtime in his office, 14 North 7th street.

Snow Slides Block Trains SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—Serious snow slides in the Sierra Nevada Mountains have delayed all trains from San Francisco today. At the summit of the range the snow is reported 4 feet deep; at Blue Canyon 4 feet, and at Gold Run 1 foot.

REAR ADMIRAL SAVANNAH, GEORGIA Laid up by Scurvy. The Rear Admiral's ship, the USS Savannah, is laid up by scurvy. The ship is at Savannah, Ga., and is expected to be ready for service in a few days.

ONE OF GERMANTOWN'S SANTA CLAUS GIRLS



Miss Claire Droughman is one of the five young women in Germantown who have persuaded their friends that especially at Christmas time it is more blessed to give than to receive. She has collected many gifts for the children of the city's less fortunate.

NEWBOYS AND DEALERS GET EVENING LEDGER FREE TODAY

Lads Crowd About Circulation Offices for the Papers.

The EVENING LEDGER is furnished free today to newboys and dealers throughout the city.

Newboys, when they heard the announcement this morning, crowded into the circulation department of the EVENING LEDGER, at Chestnut and 6th streets, eager to depart with arms full of papers. The various district circulation offices throughout the city were crowded in like manner.

More than 5000 newboys and 2000 dealers are affected by the offer of free papers today. The first edition had not yet gone to press before hundreds of youngsters in the centre of the city were on hand to be supplied. Many sold their usual complement of papers before they had progressed three blocks from the office of the EVENING LEDGER and came back for more.

The newboys and dealers in the city to whom the offer is made do business at all advantageous centres from League Island to Germantown, to Manayunk and Riverburg, and from the Delaware Bridge to 8th street and to Darby. Camden and Tacony distributors also profit by the offer.

\$150 IN TURKEYS STOLEN Four Barrels of Fowls Carried From Wagon on Curb.

Four barrels of fine western turkeys, valued at \$150, were stolen from the wagon of A. Friedman, dealer, 319 New Market street, while the vehicle was standing outside the Heading Terminal Market early this morning.

Isaac B. Keller, 244 North Broad street, reports a thief entered his home and stole \$154 in cash. The Packard automobile of Theodore J. Lewis, 211 North 34th street, valued at \$250, was stolen from the front of his home last evening.

LAMA'S SHRINE BURNED Sacred Treasures of the Mongols Destroyed in Fire.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 22.—A dispatch from Urga, Mongolia, says that the Kikutky Palace was burned today with all its treasures. It was the seat of the deified Lama of the Mongols.

Russia a Democracy

Some striking things about the land of the Czar are told in a notable article to be published on the editorial page of tomorrow's Evening Ledger.

This article is from the pen of Vance Thompson, whose travels in Russia enable him to speak with authority. With the skill of the trained observer, he points out that Russia, far from being the cruel, oppressive nation it is usually represented to be, is on the contrary democratic with centuries of democratic traditions and democratic habits. Even the nobility, he declares, is democratic. Mr. Thompson tells of the large measure of home rule enjoyed by the peasants and discusses the effect of the war on the nation.

Place your orders for the Evening Ledger with your newsdealer early.

Racing Indictments Dismissed NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Indictments against persons found by the Kings County Grand Jury during the anti-race track campaign of the first administration of Governor Hughes were dismissed today by Judge Dink in the County Court of Brooklyn. All the indictments were the result of evidence gathered by District Attorney Clark, of Kings County.

Senate Takes Recess Until Dec. 29 WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The Senate at 1 o'clock today took a recess until December 29. A message from the President recommending an appropriation of \$25,000 for the purchase of the other battleship now owned by the American Government at Havana, Cuba, was not read because of lack of quorum.

FIVE GERMANTOWN GIRLS ARE PLAYING SANTA CLAUS

Ready for Distribution.

Playing Santa Claus lady has become an exceedingly popular form of Christmas philanthropy ever since Miss Olive May Wilson, of Jenkintown, and Mrs. M. W. Ketchum, of Kensington, made such noteworthy success of it, but it is not every community that can boast five Santa Claus ladies all of its very own.

Kramerberg has five. And they are all young and enthusiastic and get results so much so, in fact, that several hundreds of needy poor will receive Christmas baskets and gifts this year.

The Santa Claus ladies of Germantown are Miss Anna, Miss Claire and Miss Florence Droughman, 870 East Chelten avenue, and Miss Clara and Miss Angela Kane, 24 East Chelten avenue. Soon after Thanksgiving they started an anti-race canvass among their friends, presenting to them in their best manner the case of the poor of Germantown who were not likely to have any festivities at all unless there were some concerted action.

Now they have two rooms packed with toys, clothing and goodies awaiting distribution. Frank Droughman and James Kane, brothers of the young women, have been pressed into service and will carry the heavy baskets. Automobiles laden with gifts will carry the five feminine delegates to the houses they have planned to visit.

TEST CASE WILL INVOLVE ALLEGED COURT ABUSE

Man Declares He Paid \$25 for Woman's Discharge.

A test case involving what many members of the bench and bar regard as abuse of the Magistrate system will be brought before Judge Staake in January by District Attorney Rotan. Mr. Rotan declared today the decision in the case will determine whether or not the custom which permits one Magistrate to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

Magistrate Renshaw, of the Central Police Court, was bitter in his criticism of the custom. He particularly was disturbed over a case involving his practice to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

Magistrate Renshaw, of the Central Police Court, was bitter in his criticism of the custom. He particularly was disturbed over a case involving his practice to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

Magistrate Renshaw, of the Central Police Court, was bitter in his criticism of the custom. He particularly was disturbed over a case involving his practice to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

Magistrate Renshaw, of the Central Police Court, was bitter in his criticism of the custom. He particularly was disturbed over a case involving his practice to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

Magistrate Renshaw, of the Central Police Court, was bitter in his criticism of the custom. He particularly was disturbed over a case involving his practice to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

Magistrate Renshaw, of the Central Police Court, was bitter in his criticism of the custom. He particularly was disturbed over a case involving his practice to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

Magistrate Renshaw, of the Central Police Court, was bitter in his criticism of the custom. He particularly was disturbed over a case involving his practice to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

Magistrate Renshaw, of the Central Police Court, was bitter in his criticism of the custom. He particularly was disturbed over a case involving his practice to sign a copy of discharge for a prisoner committed by another Magistrate is to continue.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH

In Belgium we made slight progress between the sea and the road from Nieuport to Westende yesterday, as well as in the region of Steenstraat and Hilschoote, where we captured a woods, some houses and a redoubt.

To the east of Bethune we recaptured, co-operating with the British army, the village of Ghenthy-les-La Bassée, which had been lost.

In the region of Arras a thick fog prevented us from making any progress on that of the enemy. To the east of Amiens, on the Aisne and on Champagne there were artillery combats. In the region of Perennes-Teruis we captured, after a brisk cannonade and two assaults, the last main line of the trenches partially taken on December 17. We blew up with four mine lines. In the last trench captured we took a section of rapid fire guns, both the weapons and men manning them. A violent counter attack was repulsed.

We made equal progress to the northeast of Beausjour, where the enemy launched new counter attacks without success. Our troops have made appreciable advance in the forest of Gurle on a line of trenches 400 yards long and 200 yards deep.

We blew up with four mine lines or German trenches and occupied the excavation.

Fighting continues around Bouvillers. It seems that it has been impossible to maintain the decided advantages which we gained yesterday morning.

Nothing has happened from the heights of the Meuse to upper Alsace.

GERMAN Attacks in the region of Lombertzyde, also south of Bixchoote, were easily repulsed by us. At Riehebourg and L'Avoue the English were again driven from their positions. Notwithstanding desperate counter attacks we retained all the positions captured from the English between Riehebourg and the canal of La Bassée.

Since December 20 we have captured 150 British and colored soldiers, five machine guns, four four mine throwers.

In the neighborhood of Camp Chalons the enemy is showing greater activity. Four attacks north of Sillerie, southeast of Rheims at Soissons and at Perthes—we partly repelled by us with heavy losses to the French.

The situation is unchanged in East and West Prussia.

Poland the battle for Bzura and Rawa continues. The situation on the right bank of the Pilica is unchanged.

RUSSIAN In East Prussia the Germans have been repulsed on the line of Neldenburg-Soldau-Lautenberg. In Poland the Germans have succeeded in gaining a foothold on the lower Bzura, north of Sochaczew. Further to the east they have reached the Rawa River and have advanced beyond Skiernewice, toward the east.

The Austro-German forces are decreasing in Poland on a front which runs from southeast of Piotrkow to the west of the Nida. In Galicia they have reached the Dunajec and occupied the line of Grybow-Smigrod-Sauk. An attempted sortie by the garrison of Przemyśl has been completely repulsed.

On December 21, on the left bank of the Vistula River between its lower course and the Pilica River, a number of fierce encounters took place. Among these the fighting on the left bank of the Pilica developed particularly.

In general we repulsed the attacks, inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy.

AUSTRIA In the Carpathians we are fighting south of the mountain ridge in the district situated by the Rivers Nagay, Latorza and Ung.

In Galicia on Monday the Russians renewed the offensive without succeeding in breaking through. On the Dunajec River particularly they suffered severe losses.

Along the Nida River and the district south of Tomaszow the fighting has been still fighting. The engagements in front of Przemyśl continue.

TENER BACKS COMMISSION AGAINST ABBOTT CHARGES

Governor Indorses Rate Decision and Lauds Body.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 22.—After reading the charges made by Edwin M. Abbott, counsel for the Philadelphia commoners, against the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission, Governor Tener said: "I have read the charges and petition received today, and find nothing contained therein to convince me that the personnel of the Commission should be changed. The Pennsylvania public service law is admittedly the best in the United States, and I have every confidence in those who have been appointed by me to carry out its provisions honestly and fearlessly."

7 YEARS FOR BURGLARY

Negro Sentenced for Robbing Two Dwellings.

A sentence of seven years in the county prison was imposed today by Judge Davis on George Jones, a Negro, who pleaded guilty to having robbed the homes of M. Merriman, 159 Callowhill street, and Mrs. Emma Williams, 205 Turner street. Jones has served four previous sentences for robbery, aggregating seven years.

Joseph McLaughlin, who pleaded guilty to shoplifting, was sentenced to the Huntland Reformatory. Thomas E. Burkhardt, of Hasleton, pleaded guilty to the larceny of three watches from the jewelry store of John Huby, 113 Columbia avenue, and was also sentenced to the reformatory.

ALFRED HENRY LEWIS DEAD

Novelist and Newspaper Man Victim of Bronchitis and Asthma.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Alfred Henry Lewis, novelist, and one of the most able newspaper writers in America, died today in his 57th year.

KAISER CALLS GERMAN HOST TO BEAT BACK FOES IN WEST

Heavy Reinforcements Hurried to Belgium and Northern France as Invaders Push Fierce Counter Attacks Upon Allies' Lines.

French War Office Claims Further Progress, But Berlin Declares Enemy's Offensive Has Broken Down. Big Krupp Guns Rushed to West Flanders.

The Kaiser is sending heavy reinforcements of men and big guns to his menaced western front, according to reports from Dutch sources. The French believe that the reinforcing of the German lines is the natural sequel of the pressure exerted by the Allies' offensive, but they admit that fierce counter attacks, especially along the coast toward Dunkirk, are to be expected.

The French War Office reports further gains for the Allies in the north and to the east of Bethune, in France. Berlin, on the contrary, declares that the Allies' offensive has broken down before the Germans' counter attacks and that French, British and Belgians are once more on the defensive at most points along the line, particularly in the Argonne region.

Westward movement of the Russian army has carried one column to Skiernewice, more than 40 miles toward the Silesian frontier, according to an official statement of the Poland situation issued by the Paris War Office. This bears out Petrograd assertions made yesterday that Grand Duke Nicholas already had begun an aggressive offense, directed to roll back Von Hindenburg's army over his path of invasion.

Mastery of the rivers, tributary to the Vistula west of Warsaw, is the gage of a great battle raging less than 40 miles from the Polish capital. Passage of the Bzura, Rawka and Pilica must be effected by the main German army before the Germans can drive at their objective from the east, their only way of approach now that the movement from Mlawka has failed. The Russian centre vigorously is opposing General von Hindenburg's attempted advance, and inflicting heavy losses, Petrograd says.

The Russians in north Poland and East Prussia are following the advantages gained over the Germans at Mlawka and Przasnysz by a fresh offensive toward Allenstein and Insterburg, in the Mazurian Lake country, and further east are menacing Thorn.

Berlin reports a favorable situation on the Pilica River, where the fighting has been heavy, and claims possession of a number of fords and branches of the Bzura and Rawka. The War Office is silent concerning the Russian operations in East Prussia against Thorn.

Turkish forces on Monday began their march on the Suez Canal "to destroy the British base of operations."

WOMAN THWARTS NEGROES